

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAHA 00602 230528Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01
IO-13 ERDA-05 NRC-05 /079 W
----- 101766 /10

P 230416Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL NAHA
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 2288 PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
CG USAGO MACHINATO PRIORITY
CG 313 AD/18TFW, KADENA AFB PRIORITY
COMFLEACTS OKINAWA PRIORITY
CG MARCORB CAMP BUTLER PRIORITY
OAC CAMP BUTLER PRIORITY
FBIS OKINAWA PRIORITY
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AFB PRIORITY
CG 5TH AF YOKOTA JAPAN PRIORITY
CG USARJ CAMP ZAMA JAPAN PRIORITY
COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JAPAN PRIORITY
CINCPAC CAMP SMITH HAWAII PRIORITY

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CINPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

PAGE 2 RHAIBQA3901 C O N F I D E N T I A L
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, JA
SUBJECT: OKINAWA NEWS MEDIA FOCUS ON CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S
KOREAN POLICY
REF: STATE 308510 (NOTAL)
1. SUMMARY. FUTURE POLICY OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION RE WITHDRAWAL
OF TROOPS AND ALLEGED NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM KOREA IS MAJOR
SUBJECT OF NEWS MEDIA ATTENTION AND SPECULATION RE FUTURE
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BUILDUP OF US BASES ON OKINAWA INVOLVING USE FOR NUCLEAR
WEAPONS TRANSIT OR STORAGE. END SUMMARY.
2. INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICE STORIES ON PRESIDENT-ELECT
CARTER'S POLICY RE WITHDRAWAL OF US MILITARY FORCES AND
WEAPONS FROM KOREA ARE RECEIVING MAJOR COVERAGE BY OKINAWAN
NEWS MEDIA.

3. KYODO STORY FROM WASHINGTON REPORTING STATEMENT IN ANDERSON/WHITTEN COLUMN IN DEC 21 WASHINGTON POST THAT JCS IS RECOMMENDING TO PRESIDENT-ELECT/CARTER THAT US MILITARY "NUCLEAR BASES" IN OKINAWA NOT BE RELINQUISHED WAS TOP STORY IN MORNING EDITION DEC 22 RYUKYU SHIMPO. USING THIS AS PEG, LOCAL PRESS IS CARRYING FOLLOW-UP STORIES REPORTING ALLEGED

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ACTIVITIES ON VARIOUS US BASES HERE (E.G. NEW CONSTRUCTION IN AMMUNITION STORAGE AREAS AND STEPUP IN INBOUND AMMUNITION SHIPMENTS) WHICH PRESS INTERPRETS AS EVIDENCE THAT US HAS EITHER RECENTLY BEGUN TO MOVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO OKINAWA FROM KOREA OR IS ACTIVELY MAKING PREPARATIONS TO DO SO. FOR EXAMPLE, OKINAWA TIMES ON MORNING DEC 23 CARRIED SUCH REPORT HEADLINED "STEPPED-UP ACTIVITY OF 'NUCLEAR' UNITS" AND "NOTICEABLE SHIPMENTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

4. KYODO REPORT ON ANDERSON COLUMN WAS USED AS PEG FOR FULL LENGTH SHIMPO AND TIMES EDITORIALS ON DEC 23, SPECULATING THAT DRAWDOWN IN US "NUCLEAR WEAPONS" AND GROUND FORCES IN KOREA WOULD LEAD TO BUILDUP OF US MILITARY BASES ON OKINAWA AND USE OF OKINAWA FOR STORAGE OR TRANSIT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WHICH WOULD INVOLVE US VIOLATION OF, OR GOJ AGREEMENT TO MODIFY, LONG-STANDING JAPANESE NATIONAL POLICY ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

5. SERVICE/PIOS ADVISE THAT THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY QUERIES FROM LOCAL PRESS ON THIS SUBJECT. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING GIVEN FUNDAMENTAL ANTI-BASE ORIENTATION OF LOCAL MEDIA REPORTERS AND EDITORIAL STAFF AND THEIR PRO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PENSITY TO PLAY UP ANYTHING THAT WOULD SUPPORT LONG STANDING MEDIA THEME THAT US IS STRENGTHENING ITS MILITARY BASES IN OKINAWA AND USING OKINAWA FOR STORAGE OR/TRANSIT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

6. EMBASSY TOKYO IS REPEATING REFTEL TO CONGEN. IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE INCLUDE THIS/CONGEN ON DISTRIBUTION FOR FUTURE CABLES GIVING WASHINGTON PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE RE OKINAWAN BASES AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO US MILITARY PRESENCE IN KOREA.

KNOWLES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 23 DEC 1976
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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